

# Lesson Objectives

## DEERS

**After this lesson, you should be able to:**

- Explain why the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) registration is important
- List examples of when a beneficiary's DEERS record needs to be updated

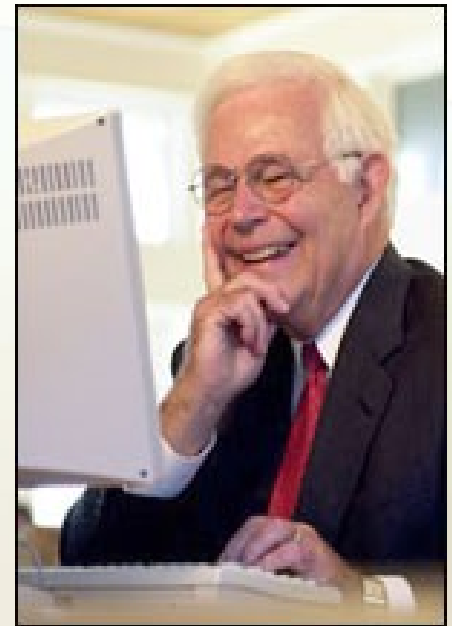


# Introduction to DMDC and DEERS

The Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) collects, archives, and maintains accurate, readily available manpower and personnel data, as well as financial databases for the Department of Defense.

The Defense Manpower Data Center is responsible for the **Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS)**.

- To be eligible for TRICARE benefits, receive care in military treatment facilities, or have TRICARE process their claims for civilian health care, beneficiaries must first be registered in the DEERS



# Purpose

## DEERS:

- Serves as a centralized Department of Defense repository of personnel information and is managed by the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC)
- Provides a link between the personnel community and the Military Health System
- Contains detailed personnel eligibility information for benefits and entitlements for Uniformed Services members, retirees, family members, certain foreign military members, Department of Defense (DoD) civilians, and other personnel as directed by the Department of Defense
- Serves as the database of record for TRICARE eligibility, enrollment, civilian Primary Care Manager (PCM) assignment, catastrophic cap, deductible, and enrollment fee totals.



# When to Enter Data Into DEERS

## **Sponsors must make sure family members are registered in DEERS.**

Beneficiaries should make sure records are updated whenever necessary through the nearest Uniformed Service ID Card issuing facility or military personnel office.

- There are key data and events that should trigger DEERS updates, such as:

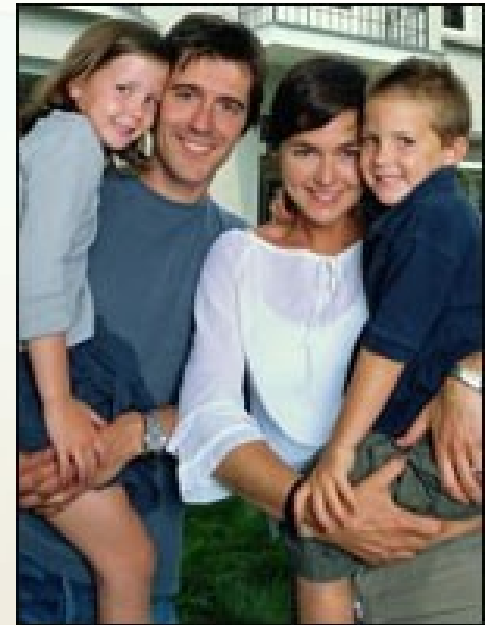
- **Initial Entry Into Service**

- **Sponsor Status Change**

- Promotions, Separations, Retirement, Active Duty to Reserve

- **Family Member Update**

- Marriage, Births/Adoptions, Divorce, Death



# Initial Entry

Based on Service personnel information, the ID card-issuing facility or personnel office will determine if an individual is eligible for TRICARE benefits and then register them in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS).

**Data sponsors are typically required to provide for DEERS entry includes:**

- Uniformed Service Member/Military sponsor's name
- Residential address and telephone number
- Mailing address (may differ from residential address)
- Social Security Number
- Date of birth
- Sex
- Family members' names



# Sponsor Status Change

**A sponsor needs to make sure that any change in his/her sponsor's status is updated in DEERS.**

**Events that may trigger updates include:**

- Activation
- Reenlistment
- Separation
- Retirement
- Becoming Medicare eligible (disability due to end stage renal disease or other physical or mental condition or turning age 65 that makes a beneficiary Medicare-TRICARE eligible)
- Permanent Change of Station/moves & address changes
- Promotion
- Extension on activation/ Stop-Loss orders



# Family Member Update

Sponsors or otherwise eligible beneficiaries must report changes that impact family members.

## **Common reasons to update DEERS for family members include the following life events:**

- Marriage
- Divorce
- Birth
- Adoption
- Child enrolled as a full-time college student beyond 21st birthday but only until graduation or 23rd birthday, whichever comes first
- Death
- Moves/changes of address
- New contact information when a child goes away to college
- Enlistment of a child in the military





# Family Member Update- continued

- DEERS enrollment reflects eligibility, so care can be denied if beneficiaries are not properly enrolled in DEERS .
- Divorced spouses who remain TRICARE eligible are issued a Uniformed Service ID Card under their own Social Security Number.
- Family members who reach age 75 are issued a Uniformed Services ID card with an indefinite expiration date on it.

Contact a local ID card issuing facility or Unit personnel office for specific guidance on eligibility and ID cards.





# Enrollment

**To enroll family members or update DEERS records, sponsors must:**

- Complete an **Application for Department of Defense Common Access Card and DEERS Enrollment** (DD Form 1172)
- Provide other documentation, such as marriage, birth, or death certificates, Social Security numbers, separation papers, Medicare cards, etc.
- Each family member's eligibility record must be updated separately when changes occur.

***Note: If the sponsor is not available, family members can add or delete family members from DEERS with a notarized DD Form 1172 or a Power of Attorney.***



# Updating Personal Information in DEERS

## Beneficiaries can verify their status and update personal information in DEERS:

- **In Person:** Visit a local ID card office to add or delete family members.
- **By Phone:** Call the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office at **1-800-538-9552** to update addresses, e-mail address and phone numbers. (TTY/TDD for the deaf: **1-866-363-2883**)
- **By Mail:** Mail changes to the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office. Beneficiaries must also mail supporting documentation if you are adding or deleting a family member:

**Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office  
400 Gigling Road  
Seaside, CA 93955-6771**

- **By Fax:** Fax address, e-mail address or phone number changes to the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office at **1-831-655-8317**.



# Updating Personal Information - continued

## Online:

**Beneficiaries have two options for updating personal information (address, phone number, email) online:**

- **DEERS Web site:** <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/address/index.jsp>  
Beneficiaries may follow the steps to update your address, e-mail address and phone numbers online.
- **Beneficiary Web Enrollment Web site:** <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/bwe/indexAction.do> The site is linked directly to the DEERS database



# TRICARE Eligibility

**Each of the seven Uniformed Services determine TRICARE eligibility.**

- Eligibility is verified at ID card-issuing facilities, since they enforce the eligibility regulations and policies for each service.
- Once someone is considered eligible for TRICARE benefits, then the Service notes that in the beneficiary's record in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System.



# Eligibility: Unremarried Former Spouses

To be considered for TRICARE eligibility, an unremarried former spouse must meet specific requirements.

## Situation 1: "The 20/20/20 Rule"

- Must have been married to the same member or former member for at least 20 years
- The member performed at least 20 years of service creditable in determining the member's eligibility for retirement pay
- **The overlap of marriage and service must be at least 20 years**



# Eligibility: Unremarried Former Spouses, continued

## **Situation 2: "The 20/20/15 Rule" (for divorces occurring before April 1, 1985)**

Must have been married to the same member or former member for at least 20 years

The member performed at least 20 years of service creditable in determining the member's eligibility for retirement pay

**The overlap of marriage and service must be at least 15 years**

If the date of the final divorce decree or annulment is on or after September 29, 1988, the 20/20/15 former spouse qualifies for medical benefits for one year from the date of the divorce decree.



# Eligibility: Unremarried Former Spouses, continued

- For those divorcees who remain TRICARE eligible, the unremarried former spouse's Social Security Number (not the sponsor's) is used to determine and validate eligibility.
  - Their health care information is filed under their own name and SSN.
  - The unremarried former spouse uses his/her own name and SSN to schedule medical appointments and to file TRICARE claims.
- For eligibility questions and assistance, unremarried former spouses should contact the nearest identification card issuing facility or the DEERS Support Office.





# Special Circumstances for TRICARE Eligibility

**Any beneficiary who falls under one of the following categories should contact the nearest ID card- issuing facility or unit personnel office to learn about eligibility requirements:**

- Family members of active duty service members who were discharged as a result of a court-martial conviction or separated for spouse or child abuse.
- Abused or former spouses and dependent children of service members who were eligible for retirement, but were revoked as a result of abuse of the spouse or child.
- Spouses and children of representatives of NATO and Partners for Peace (PFP) nations that are signatories to the respective Status of Forces Agreements with the United States, while stationed in or passing through the United States on official business. These family members are only eligible for outpatient benefits.



# Additional Documentation

**Additional documentation a beneficiary may need to present varies based on the type of change they need to make in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System. Some examples include:**

- Marriage certificate
- Birth certificate
- Death certificate
- DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty



# Automatic Coverage for Newborns



**Parents and legal guardians should enroll infants in DEERS as soon after birth as possible because:**

All TRICARE-eligible beneficiaries must be enrolled in DEERS

For the first 60 days after birth, newborns are covered under TRICARE Prime as long as one additional family member is already enrolled in TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Prime Remote for Active Duty Family Members.

- Any claims submitted after the initial 60 days will be processed as TRICARE Standard unless the sponsor enrolls the infant in DEERS and TRICARE Prime
- If a family member is not enrolled in Prime, the infant is covered under TRICARE Standard (a more expensive option)
- An infant's TRICARE eligibility ends after 365 days if the infant does not get enrolled in DEERS.

**NOTE:** Enrollment in DEERS and Enrollment in Prime are not the same – these are two separate actions.



# Enrolling Newborns in DEERS and Prime

- To enroll an infant to the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, the sponsor/legal guardian must have a **certificate of live birth** issued by the hospital or birthing center and a completed and signed **DD Form 1172, Application for Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card**.
  - If the sponsor is unable to sign in person, the DD Form 1172 must be notarized.
- Sponsors/legal guardians should also apply for a Social Security Number for the infant. Once the Social Security Card is received, it should be provided to the ID card-issuing facility so the DEERS record can be updated. For more information on Social Security go to: <http://www.ssa.gov/>
- Enrolling in Prime - If the infant's enrollment application is submitted by the 20th of the month, TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Prime Remote coverage can begin the first day of the following month.
  - Applications received after the 20th of the current month delay coverage until the 1st of the second month.



# Enrolling Newborns in DEERS

## Promptly enrolling a newborn ensures:

- TRICARE eligibility is established for the newborn and the possibility of a claims denial due to non-enrollment is avoided.
- Drug interaction tests can be performed systematically before they receive a prescription medication.
- Catastrophic cap and deductibles can be attached to the child's record.



# Summary

**Congratulations, you've finished  
DEERS!**

**You should now be able to:**

- Explain why the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) registration is important
- List examples when a beneficiary's DEERS record needs to be updated

